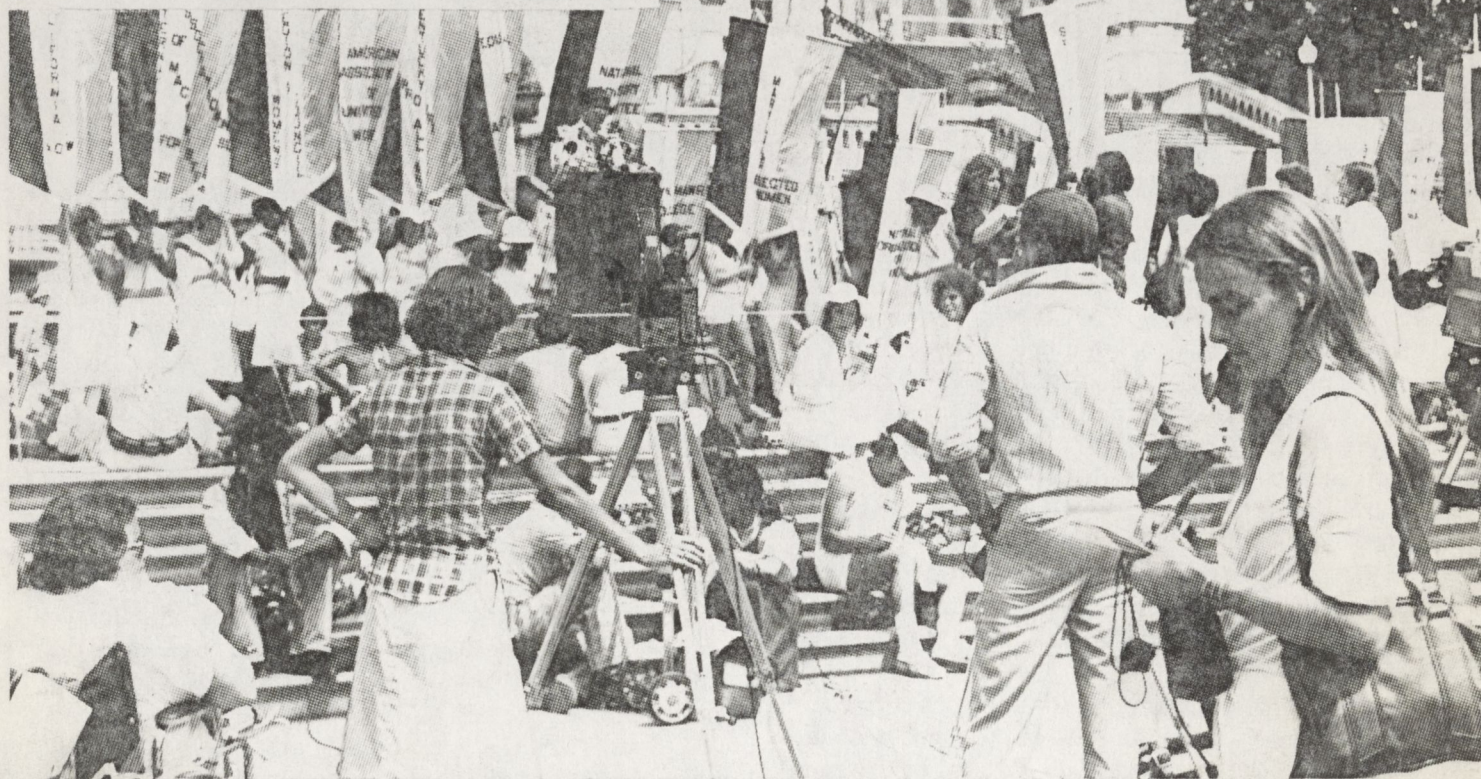


Surrounded by equipment of the Washington media, Inyo Reporter Benett Kessler covers ERA speech near Capitol's steps.



## The INYO COUNTY NEWS-LETTER

A NEWS ALTERNATIVE - EASTERN SIERRA NEWS SERVICE

Compiled by John Heston and Benett Kessler

GENERAL CIRCULATION

Published weekly

Here's our  
"New Look"

Week of  
July 17, 1978

A GOP "MISUNDERSTANDING"  
**THE BAKERSFIELD CHOICE**  
A NOVEMBER LOSS COULD  
COST THE GOP TWO SEATS

WITH A PARTY "MISUNDERSTANDING" out of the way, Inyo's Republicans last week began lining up - albeit with less than galloping enthusiasm - behind their congressional candidate, Bill Thomas, the state assemblyman who won out over the Inyo GOP's preference. (See REPUBLICANS, Page 2)

### NEWS BRIEFS

#### GONE LIKE THE PTERODACTYL

THE TECOPA PUPFISH IS KAPUT; THE VALLEY WATER ISSUE IS EXAMINED; COUNTY "GROWTH" IS QUESTIONED; AND 5 STAY "DRY"

SUPREME COURT RULINGS TO ASSURE HIS SURVIVAL notwithstanding, at least one variety of the controversial Pupfish has been destroyed. Gone the way of the dinosaur and pterodactyl is the tecopa pupfish, one of several varieties of pupfish in the Death Valley area.

His demise, discovered in recent weeks by a University of Nevada graduate's futile search, was duly recorded on national television. "They became extinct," says Phil Rister of the California Fish & Game Department, "because their habitat was disturbed by bathing areas and game fish." They had been around for a few million years but the problem occurred "before we were on top of the endangered species program. Still surviving, but still critically endangered, are about six other varieties of the pupfish which in recent years became the focal issue of a hotly-contested environmental case that went to the United States Supreme Court. The court ruled that nearby groundwater pumping must cease to save the habitat of the "Devil's Hole Pupfish."

SHE'S A DEMOCRAT, but according to some of her more conservative friends and supporters, "she doesn't think like a Democrat." That's the image of 52-year-old Betty Deutsch of Ridge- (NEWS BRIEFS continue on 9)



INYO'S MIKE INGALLS AND CANDIDATE THOMAS  
At Bakersfield, Inyo's man was outmaneuvered



-CONTESTED ELECTION

## GLIDDEN ANSWERS JACOBSON LAWSUIT OVER TIE VOTE

FOUR SUPPORTERS WERE REQUIRED TO VOTE IN ANOTHER PRECINCT, RESULTING IN THE TIE, HE SAYS

**F**OUR VOTES INTENDED FOR HIM, but denied at a District 3 poll, more than enough to break that district's supervisorial tie, will put him and not Moe Jacobson in the race against Incumbent Wilma Muth in November, says Candidate Roger Glidden, replying to Jacobson's suit.

In his superior court response, Glidden listed the names of four persons he claims were turned away from a third district polling place and required to vote in the first district. He filed the cross-suit on Monday, answering to Jacobson's previously-filed suit which asked the court to name him, Jacobson, as the candidate to oppose Incumbent Muth in November. Jacobson had based his suit on what he considered as a single vote - by Deryl McNulty of the Inyo fourth district, who voted in the third - illegally or improperly cast. But Glidden counters that Jacobson failed to show an "illegality or impropriety" - and lists the four he discovered.

The June 6 primary election, later canvassed and given an official okay, showed Jacobson and Glidden tied at 375 votes each, and Muth, 541. Unless the tie is broken, the two challengers, under California law, will have to remain on the November ballot, a fact which may give Muth a clear edge since only a plurality is required to win.

Glidden said his four supporters were committed to voting for him and that if they



GLIDDEN

JACOBSON

MUTH

...the smiles of June; the battles of July...

had been allowed to vote in their rightful precinct, he would have had sufficient ballots to run alone against Muth. He listed their names as Jogy M. Payne, Cynthia Jean Roger, Donald James Roger and Ruby N. LeFevre, all residents of the third district who were told to vote in the first district.

As for his own court action, Jacobson commented that "It is in everyone's best interest to resolve the three-way run-off so that two can run." Both the candidates have flatly declined to drop out of the race to lend support to the other against Muth.

The court has as yet set no date for hearing the suit.

Muth volunteered no comment on the case.

### REPUBLICANS, Continued

red candidate, Keith Bright. Thomas beat Bright in a special four-county central committee session at Bakersfield, and the defeat left some Inyo Republicans smarting under the knowledge that, once again, Inyo's hopes for an "eastern" Sierra candidate had been dashed by behind-the-scenes maneuvering of a far better organized GOP operation west of the mountains.

The selection also raised some concern among GOP-watchers who see in Thomas' nomination a risk of losing not only a congressional seat, but also the nominee's seat in the state assembly. Thomas - predictably - expressed confidence in his ability to defeat the Democratic candidate, Bob Sogge, in November; apparently, his confidence was convincing at the central committee convention at Bakersfield. "We were competing all the way," said Inyo Committee Chairman Mike Ingalls. "We kept getting promises of blocks of votes, but they never came." The Bakersfield vote-maneuvering went into a seventh ballot, and Thomas took the nomination after a group headed by another candidate failed to deliver its votes for Bright.

Meanwhile, other differences arose that most of the county's Republicans refuse to discuss; the issue, or "misunderstanding," centered around another GOP candidate, Bill Snyder of Bishop, who seeks election to the state senate.

A usually-reliable news source who declined to be quoted, told a reporter that "there had been some talk that Thomas had offered some campaign money to Snyder in return for the sup-



SNYDER

port of the Inyo delegation." But Snyder was contacted at Bakersfield to verify or deny the report and he claimed there was "no deal made," that Thomas "was not in position to do anything like that anyway."

Thomas was unavailable for comment, but an administrative assistant, David Gray, told the news service that "There are no wounds. Inyo did have a favorite son candidate and there was some misinformation about Bill, but that's all cleared up." Was it? Gray, and other GOP officials, adamantly refused to elaborate on the "misunderstanding."

Inyo's Mike Ingalls said, "Since it's all cleared up, I'd rather not say what the problem was."

But there were other intra-party difficulties. Snyder may have support of the four counties' Republicans, but Snyder sees it this way: "The Inyo delegation was so strong for Keith that this didn't help me," he said. "It would have been of more benefit if they had gone to Thomas after the first ballot. But as much as I want to be state senator, I can't blackmail our people. I hope to get the Republican party support anyway." He and his family were delegates to the Bakersfield convention. "The central committee is behind Bill now, and there are no wounds now that some misinformation among the Inyo delegates has been cleared up."

Republican politics being what they are - a straw-grasping "out" party trying once again to be "in" - such problems were predictable, if not necessary. And what will be Thomas' late-starting campaign strategy? To start with, Thomas will have \$20,000 "for a media campaign at Bakersfield." He will be in Bishop Saturday.



TALKED THE OTHER DAY TO ABC's Bill Evans of Sacramento, here in the valley to film a feature on the Sierra Golden Trout area. Evans also took notes and telepix of several valley towns for his daily TV show, "On The Map." Getting publicity for the Owens Valley should be neither difficult nor costly. This week we're busily pushing Channel 2's Ralph Story to give a play on the mule races; CBS is interested.



BENETT KESSLER

\*\*\*  
IF YOU HAVE THE TIME, THE INCLINATION, or the money, you might go 3000 miles to Washington and dine at Gusti's sidewalk restaurant near the Capital Hilton. Gusti's also serves you "off-sidewalk" in "The Grotto," quieter and away from the gaping crowds of tourists. Georgetown has the best food, but, again, the summer tourists are standing, or wandering aimlessly, elbow-to-elbow there, along with the pompous bureaucrats who, until they hit Washington, never got away from home or school. They act like it, too.

\*\*\*  
A NEW VERY PLEASANT PERSON IN TOWN: He's a professional cop of 10 years' experience, now on the sheriff's department duty roster: Deputy Chuck Hazelton, soft-spoken, confident, with a practiced know-how in dealing with the public. His family will join him soon. They're from Orange County.

\*\*\*  
AND ANOTHER VPP: He's Phil Pister of the Fish & Game Dept. He's been burned by the press (that little problem over on the Kern River), but, unlike most huffy officialdom, takes it all philosophically. A keen political and social sense in many areas. For fun, he collects Ronald Reagan satire and digs the S.F. Chronicle's Art Hoppe. A friendly news source, Pister has a tendency to "tell it like it is."

\*\*\*  
HE STILL GETS MAIL ADDRESSED ONLY TO "MR. MUSIC, Bishop." He's an old-timer who played as a sideman with Pete Daley, and with Red Nichols (and the Five Pennies), and with Jack Teagarden. He retired here more than 20 years ago, if you can call forming a community band and teaching, a "retirement," and now he's really back at work. He is, as you may already have guessed, Al Winter. Al is doing a solo gig on the baby grand Steinway at the Knight Manor Tennis and Swimming (or is it swimming and tennis?) Club at Big Pine. He won't be running out of music, since he knows something over 3000 pop numbers dating from the '30's and beyond, to today's pop. He's holding his own well, but a bass accompaniment (A real bass, not a guitar bass) would help. Al has been definitely and enthusiastically re-discovered by the local dining crowd. ("The Club" is not a place where you'll find the yahoos dancing with their cowboy hats on.)

\*\*\*  
WE'LL, OKAY, LET'S SAY SOMETHING NICE ABOUT CALTRANS, which deserves it, if for nothing more than the new Coso Junction highway rest stop. Well designed and landscaped, it's a welcome oasis by the four-lane north of Little Lake. The new green-space turns up just when you may be thinking you can't handle another hot mile on the L.A.-Inyo trip. Thanks, Caltrans.

\*\*\*

THE CLERGY AT WORK IN THE FIELD: Vicar Glynn Harper, one of our favorite men-of-the-cloth, has taken off for Sequoia Kings with a gang of area youngsters - 4th-to-6th graders - to join with a church camp group there. To this venture (and others) the vicar donates much of his personal time.

\*\*\*

SOLD, AND NOW IN ESCROW: The beautiful Hidden Valley property in the Alabama Hills west of Lone Pine. For years it was maintained as the home of the Willard family, and was a virtual Mecca for hundreds of people who knew and loved "Mrs. Willard," the last of the line. The property - with its groves of trees - now goes to a young couple, the Charles Youngs, and a friend; reportedly the arty type. Mrs. Willard had sold the property to long-time Hidden Valley Caretaker Howard Mitchell, who is passing it along now.

\*\*\*

IN SPITE OF THE SALE OF HIDDEN VALLEY, Tom Newell says he hasn't changed his plans (Aug. 5) to be married there.

\*\*\*

IF YOU'RE IN-TO ART (ISN'T EVERYONE?), it's worth a visit to the L.A. Art Museum when you are in L.A., to see the Rosa Bonheur collection. Exquisite renderings of animals, landscapes, birds, done in the 19th century classic style.

\*\*\*

RECENTLY DINING-AND-DANCING: The (Judge) Don Chapmans; John Hemler and his bride-to-be; The Whistler Hurds (He's the High Sierra Construction Co. man); and Tom and Pauline Allison.

\*\*\*

STRANGE COMBINATION OF SOULFUL-SENSITIVITY and Marine Corps gung-ho: Guitarist-composer James W. Willy, a Marine sergeant, who comes up to Inyo on weekends to play for friends his delicate and stirring folk songs, and to visit Girl-friend Kimberly Cowdrey. Want to hear him? Ask around, in Big Pine and Bishop.

\*\*\*

IS INYO COUNTY SUFFICIENTLY OUT-OF-THIS-WORLD? Producer Richard Wells (NBC Landsburg productions, now with KCET-TV, Ch. 28) did an *In Search Of*.. show here last year, and is now sizing up Inyo's terrain for "moonscapes," etc., for a new series dealing with the evolution of life. When he called, he said he'd be dropping in soon for a fly-over valley trip. Anybody out there got any suggestions beyond Owens Dry Lake and the lava beds? The location needs to be convincingly "spacey."

\*\*\*

E.R.A., OR MAYBE WE SHOULD SAY E.R.B, (EQUAL Rights Basketball) has come to Inyo County. Tom Newell (see above) allows as to how his summer basketball program for kids will now admit girls. And so-o-o..... Newell's annual youth basketball camp will feature an all-American fem basketballer, Maggie Nelson (Stanford U.), along with Carol Chandler, (UC Berkeley), starting on the 24th; boys, July 31. Newell's brother, Pete (coach at Santa Cruz Hi), and his father, Pete, Sr. (director of player personnel for the Golden State Warriors) and some other top names, will be around to help. Tuition for Inyo youngsters is \$30, but this is a non-profit program and if any kids can't afford the bucks, Tom will "work out something." Applications at Country Kitchen, (See B.K.'S NOTES, Page 4)



## B.K.'S NOTES, Continued

Austin's General Store, and Lloyd's of Lone Pine. Converse Tennis Shoes has done its part: 100 pairs for the kids. It all goes down (or up) at the Lone Pine hi gym. Any subscriber out there want to help Eastern Sierra News in sponsoring a kid? Give us a call.

\*\*\*

IT'S INDEPENDENCE'S BEST SHOW: the Fourth of July fireworks display produced each year by the town fire volunteers. Remember, volunteer firemen are paid a small amount for every call they make, and the men at Independence have been turning over their fire checks to present the annual display. Annual cost: about \$2000. This year, they went in the hole a little less than usual: \$63. They'll be getting a check from us, and maybe the people here in town would like to help a little, too; no reason for those guys to have to foot the whole bill; they really earn their dollars (see Page 7), and maybe all of us could help.

\*\*\*

GETTING A NEW PRINTING PROCESS IS NO EASY MATTER. If you like our new look, it's due mostly to Gary Hampton the Bishop Typewriter man. The story is too long to tell, but we'd put in a plug for his kind of service anyday. Hint: Always do business with the hometown folks.

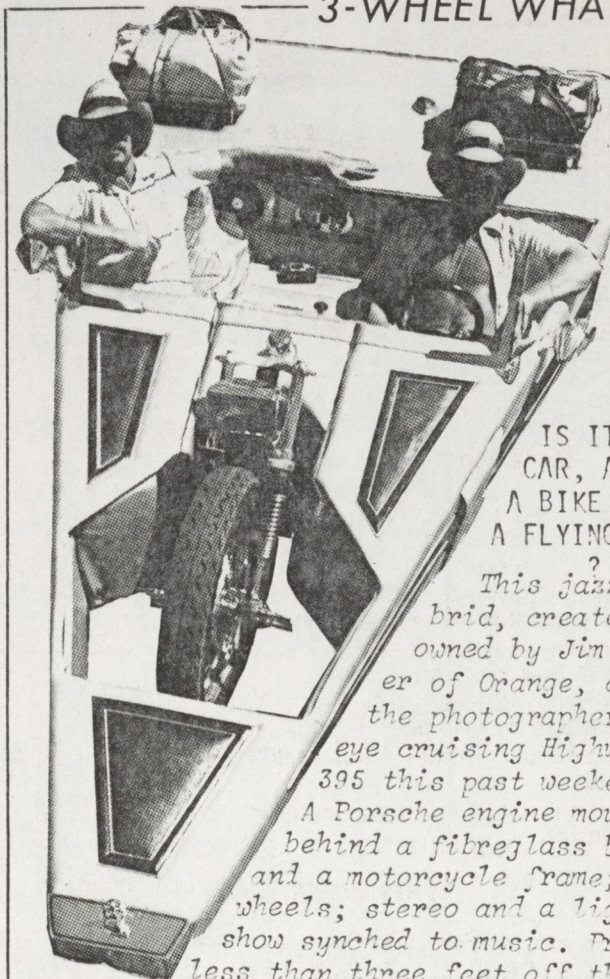
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And may the news in your day, be good news, every day...

Sincerely,

BK

## 3-WHEEL WHATSIT



IS IT A  
CAR, A BOAT,  
A BIKE - OR  
A FLYING WEDGE

This jazzy hybrid, created and owned by Jim Tucker of Orange, caught the photographer's eye cruising Highway 395 this past weekend: A Porsche engine mounted behind a fiberglass body and a motorcycle frame; mag wheels; stereo and a light show synched to music. Profile less than three feet off the road; stability "better than a sports car" says Tucker who put more than \$10,000 in his creation. Registration: "Motorcycle."



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\*\*\*\*\*

There is an ever-growing number of whispers by people who ought to know that government, especially federal government, is getting too big for its britches. Even the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power's plump rump has nearly busted the seams of Inyo's faded blue denims with its water meters. It looks like it's time to start pitching the tea overboard!

The monies used and gathered by the government have caused you as a wage earner to labor five months of the year to sustain the present bureaucracy. There is personal income tax, state tax, gas tax, property tax, other obvious taxes, plus the hidden taxes passed on to you through many products and services you buy. Now, after you pay all these taxes, the government disperses it back to you through different bureaucratic groups which use part of that money for administration purposes, and then the money, your money, must be used in a manner and for a purpose prescribed by state or federal law. So, what this round-about-giving-the-tax-money-back-to-you bureaucratic bunbling means in plain English is: Less and less self-determination as states, counties, cities, and as individuals.

A remedy is to drastically reduce or eliminate personal income taxation on the state or federal level which will destroy the bureaucratic nightmare leaving states and smaller communities free to deal with their own priorities in their own way with the means available to them. In times of great national emergencies or unified movements, personal taxation may be justified to satisfy common goals.

\*\*\*\*\*

Community Service Award to Sierra Save Pharmacy. No bitter pills to swallow as far as prescription prices go.

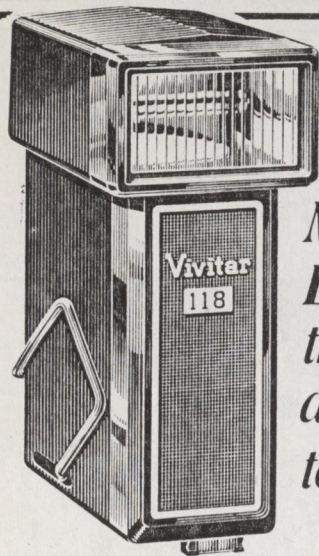
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- EAGLE

For more information about EAGLE, its beliefs, aims and goals, address enquiries to EAGLE, P.O. Box 1776, Bishop, Calif. 93514.

(This space paid for by EAGLE, a non-profit organization)





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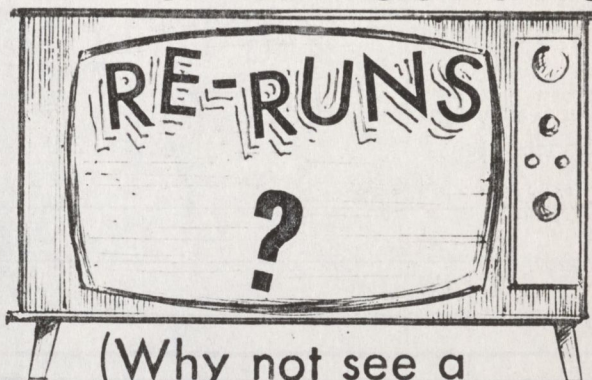
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WHERE WILL THE TAX MONEY GO?

## Bishop's \$50,000 "Promotion" Bucks

SHOULD TAX DOLLARS GO TO SUPPORT PRIVATE BUSINESS PROMOTION? A BISHOP COUNCILMAN COMES UNDER FIRE FOR WHAT HE CALLS HIS RESPONSE TO THE PASSAGE OF PROPOSITION 13; OUTVOTED

FOR ABOUT AS LONG AS ANYONE CAN PRACTICALLY REMEMBER, the Bishop City Council has been forking out increasing amounts of tax dollars (this year \$50,000) to the Bishop Chamber of Commerce, or, in effect, to the Bishop business community. The money would go toward "promoting" the Bishop tourist industry and the dollars it puts into tills of the local businessmen. The philosophical propriety of such use of tax money was never before seriously challenged - until a few days ago when one councilman, Peter Pearson, flew not only into the face of standard procedure, but also into the big guns of nearly unanimous opposition. He thinks the peoples' tax dollars should not be used to advertise the town's business houses. He offered a counter-proposal: For about 69 cents a day (about the same that a smoker lays out for cigarettes), each member-firm could pay into a promotion fund to provide the chamber with money from the ones who stand to profit most: the business community - not the taxpayers. Outvoted 4-1, Pearson has now begun a petition campaign to get his idea on the ballot as an initiative. "I'm taking this stand," says the obdurate councilman, "because it has been indicated by the public through the passage of Proposition 13. There is a concern over the spending of tax dollars." Pearson would limit to \$1,000 the amount a government entity could pay into non-government activities. He says he's getting a positive public response to the idea, but that some other interests were less supportive. "I've received threats about my job and other things," he said, but did not elaborate.



COUNCILMAN PEARSON  
"...concern over spending taxes."

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SOARING TEMPERATURES, LEAKY GAS TANK AND A HOT ENGINE brought an abrupt and fiery end to Tom Williams' Tahoe vacation trip, on this remote stretch of Highway 395. Williams (in white suit, background) looked on helplessly as firemen, one of them in cool shorts, turned their hoses on the charred remains of Williams' car. Such auto fires are common in Inyo's summer desert heat.

—EVEN LONDON COMES FIRST

## NO METEORITE FOR INYO

WITH THE DEATH OF BILL KETCHUM, IT IS UNLIKELY INYO WILL GET ITS "ROCK" BACK; NOT EVEN A PART

IF THE HOPES OF A FEW INYO PEOPLE TO RECOVER the "Inyo Meteorite" have been shattered, they are no more so than the rock itself. Making a quick inquiry-stop at the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, a **NEWS-LETTER** reporter learned that the controversial object, at one time weighing some 300 pounds, has been fragmented and parts of it dispersed among museums as far away as London. It had been the subject of a recent local campaign by a number

of people, including former Museum Director Henry Raub, who wanted it returned to Independence for display at the courthouse. It was turned over to the museum in 1921 after its discovery near Big Pine. The late Congressman William Ketchum had joined in the effort to return it to its home county.

The effort may have been futile in any case; The Smithsonian spokesman was rudely adamant: "It belongs to the government," he said.

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# FORUM

LETTERS AND COMMENT

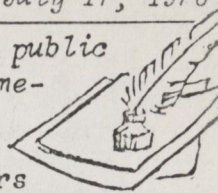
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INYO COUNTY NEWS-LETTER

July 17, 1978

NEWS-LETTER welcomes letters and comment relevant to public issues. The editors will publish those considered timely and with viewpoints concisely stated. Most likely

to be published are those of 200 words or less. Letters or statements should be addressed to PO Box 531, Independence 93526. The editors remind their readers that publication of a letter does not in any way imply that the editors agree with its view.



## RENT PROFITEERING IN THE FACE OF JARVIS: ANOTHER COMPLAINT

Dear Editors:

My congratulations to "A.B." of Independence on his/her stand on rent hikes (NEWS-LETTER, July 3).

I am one in Independence who had their rent raised. I was first notified three days after the election and Proposition 13's passage! The increase was subsequently delayed until September, but is over 20%. I'm not looking for a pay raise, so this means some fewer dollars for local trade.

"A.B." used the term greed when applied to such people. Regardless of excuses given, I believe the term is appropriate. Certainly the timing was terrible.

Perhaps one day I may have a landlord who thinks similarly to "A.B."

Please withhold my name - the landlord might raise the rent even more!

- A renter  
Independence

*(Editors' note: The letter writer makes reference to another FORUM letter in which a writer who is a property owner cited an inexplicable tendency on the part of some landlords to continue to increase rents in spite of Proposition 13's tax relief that amounts in savings to many of several hundreds of dollars. The writer-landlord had promised his/her own tenants no increases for at least 18 months. The editors find themselves in agreement with both writers, and feel that such uncalled-for increases under the circumstances may lead to legislation (as in Los Angeles) that would further impose government regulation of still another "free enterprise" business. NEWS-LETTER will be happy to publish letters reporting other abuses.)*

\*\*\*

## OVERTIME CALLED "THE FAT" IN GOVERNMENT SPENDING: A LETTER

To the Inyo County News-Letter:

It is customary to borrow additional help/personnel from other branches or departments to fill high-peak work needs rather than using overtime. Overtime pay should be frozen. This is part of the fat in government spending.

In the Los Angeles Herald-Examiner of May 28, 1978, it is written that the Examiner contacted Inyo County Assessor Jack Clay on a question regarding assessment rollback. Clay's reply was "I'm doubtful of the legality, doubt if it's constitutional and I don't feel it's proper." This taxpayer did not vote for Jack Clay in the recent election. I will not cast my vote for any candidate for public office who does not respect and uphold the intent and purposes of Proposition 13. This includes members of the board of supervisors.

We need an opposing candidate when Jack Clay is up for re-election.

- Pat McClendon  
Little Lake

## MORE ANGRY WORDS ON DWP'S METER PROPOSAL

To the News-Letter:

It IS beyond intelligent thought how the bureaucratic chiefdom of DWP would deem it necessary to impose and metering plan on the people of Owen's Valley. No matter what the reason for such a plan, there is no justification for a public entity 250 miles away to impose its will here. We are treated as children with no mind of our own; it is time we answered the DWP "parent" telling them to get off our backs. We are old enough to manage our own affairs, and maybe even their water, and ours. It is bad enough that we are charged a high rate for consumption - but to have it parcelled out per metered unit is worse. No great imagination is necessary to tell us that rationing is in the future.

Do the people of Owens Valley want DWP to manage their lives or have we finally managed to reach sufficient maturity to stand up for our rights and tell the L.A. chiefs we want to determine our own destiny? As a child matures and reaches the age to break from parental rule, Owens Valley must do the same. Obviously there are some who do not feel as strong about metering as others; some cling to the nest a little longer. However, our future must be seen clearly. Do we rule ourselves, or does DWP? I, for one, want to be my own person - not in the egotistical sense, but as one capable of making choices. Owens Valley now has a choice: free will, or continued parental rule in areas of our lives that go far beyond the export of water. Water metering is a focal point in that decision-making process. If we accept metering, we accept the idea that DWP carries a big stick that we must bow to. Standing up and saying no to metering is a big step toward self-rule. And perhaps Owens Valley will have other opportunities to say no again - but time is running out.

Many are afraid to say no; they need a push, and reinforcement. Let me help give you a push; if indeed there are three supervisors who lean toward metering they need to be educated, or thrown out of office. I suggest meanwhile that the people write letters, make phone calls, attend board meetings, sign petitions - and also vote for those who aren't afraid to say no to a greedy, self-righteous "parent" entity. Make them listen, like it or not, to what you have to say, if you've got the courage to say it. Apathy does not make for self-rule. A strong and unified board of supervisors saying no carries a lot of weight in the decision to put meters on our lines. I for one want them unified and representing THE PEOPLE who say NO to metering.

- Jack Pound  
Independence

*(Editors' note: It would appear that Reader Pound is not alone in his view and that a broad majority of valley residents are awaiting only the leadership necessary to defeat the meters - and a lot of other DWP outrages.)*



## NEWS BRIEFS, Continued

crest who last week announced her entry into the 18th District congressional race as a write-in candidate. Her chief interest: improvement of schools and their operations.

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IN OWENS VALLEY THIS WEEK, his card file and notebook loaded with notes, is Bill Kharl, the state research director in the governor's office of planning and research. Kharl, 31, has been given a Rockefeller Foundation study grant to take what he calls an "objective look" at the Owens Valley water issue and its history, which he says has never been comprehensively covered. Of more than merely regional interest is the Owens Valley-Los Angeles controversy which "has been essential in water development in California and which has shaped California water law." Based on his findings, Kharl has some grim predictions: "The present energy crisis is nothing compared to what the water problems of the Western United States will be in the next 10 years." Attempting as best he can to bypass "prejudicial attitudes," Kharl is trying to find out "what really did happen; what the valley was before Los Angeles came in, and what Los Angeles really did." The UCLA press will publish whatever answers he gets to those questions.

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FOR MOST SOBER FOLK, the report is of ho-hum concern, but to five people in the program, a full month "dry" is a major milestone. That's the word from Bishop's "New Horizons" facility which has been working effectively with a number of the county's alcoholics - and expanding its program into Lone Pine. Counselors journey to the southern Inyo community twice each week to deal with about eight problem drinkers. If New Horizons' directors can cut through governmental red tape, their organization will begin its drinking driver program - an alternative to jail for drivers arrested for drunkenness.

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A COUNTY NEWSPAPERMAN who served on the recent grand jury, says in effect that he saw things differently from the other jurors, and he issued a minority report that stood in stark contradiction to several points in the jury's own report. Examples: the county auditor-controller is not responsible for problems concerning accounting procedures. That responsibility, says Keeler Columnist and Reporter Paul Payne, rests with the board of supervisors which denied the auditor needed personnel. Payne also denied the jury's accusations to the effect that members of the supervisors' board violated state and county law in their dealings with the Knight development issue. He also added that the district attorney had not been remiss in his job as county counsel in that matter. In a further claim, "an attempt at character assassination" by the jury, Payne echoes the sentiments of his publisher-boss, Todd Watkins, who refused to publish the grand jury report for at least two weeks after it was released. But Payne says his "minority opinion" is not a condemnation of the final grand jury report.

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THE PERENNIAL INYO QUESTION, "Just how much growth do the people want for their communities?", may wind up as a ballot question. Although a recent census afforded what most

consider a reliable index to valley thinking (A large majority said they want "controlled" growth), the matter remains unresolved in the minds of a few attendants at a recent session of the Bishop Plan Advisory Committee. There was some observer-speculation that a few people (who want no growth at all) may have raised the question to beg the issue. A county supervisor was there, Bishop's Dick Engel, and he reportedly said there should be no public vote on planning issues because "the public wouldn't know enough about it to vote on it," or, as the news source said, "words to that effect." A number of interested people are said to be looking further into the possibility of including the question of growth on the ballot, but others believe that the issue comes up too late for the November election.

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SO FAR, SEVEN OTHER ISSUES HAVE MADE IT on the ballot, and information on two of these is available in the county. The two: the so-called Briggs Initiative which provides for criminal charges against teachers who promote or display homosexual activities, and another that is a get-tough-on-crime proposal. The latter would allow the death penalty, or life imprisonment, for a broader range of crimes. It also calls for more stringent penalties for second degree murder and puts limits on "early" parole.

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THE BISHOP OFFICE OF THE LATE CONGRESSMAN Bill Ketchum is closing down, and constituents having business with the office are directed to call a Bakersfield office, or the congressman's Washington office. And, at Washington, what will the caller find? "It's the same as before he died," says Aide Tracey Smith, "but Chris Seeger (another aide) makes all the decisions." But there is a difference - beyond the vacuum of Ketchum's absence: "We are voteless; we're just staying with the congressman's policies." Meanwhile, some district Republicans found in the vacuum an opportunity to take a shot at California's Democratic administration; Kern County's central committee passed a resolution critical of Gov. Jerry Brown for failing to call a special election "whereby the candidate elected may take office immediately." Kern GOP Chairman Jim Henry said Brown's neglect was due to "obvious partisan political purposes."

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IT DEPENDS ON BISHOP'S PERFORMANCE - whether or not the rest of the state will be accorded a state sanction for mule racing and pari-mutuel betting. The current "mule races" amount to a pilot program based on a special legislative bill that may, or may not, become the standard for the state. And what are the financial prospects for Bishop's betting on the lop-eared racers? At 10 races per day, and an estimated \$7000 down on each race, it looked like about \$70,000 per day. No one could estimate the track profits.

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ALTHOUGH THEY PERSIST IN THE CLAIM THAT NO LAY-offs are planned, the supervisors have gone so far as to detail the "lay-off procedures" they will use should the need arise thanks to the passage of Proposition 13. The "procedures" place a lot of hire-fire power directly in the hands of the supervisors who claim ultimate say over who may be laid off, although they would hear "departmental recommendations."



More than 100,000 women from every state joined the ERA "March on Washington." In the throng, there more as an observer than a marcher, was Inyo's sole representative, Career Newswoman Benett Kessler, her trip privately sponsored by Betty Denton, a civic activist and former mayor of Bishop. There on the broad streets and parks of the nation's capitol, Kessler photographed - and was herself photographed - as the feminist action broke loose to spread over the city and into congressional offices. Exhausted, she returned with the accompanying report for Inyo's ERA proponents.



KESSLER AND FEMINIST MARCHER  
"White is for tennis," she had said, but gave in to ERA friends' demands.





On Washington's Constitution Avenue, ERA marchers move toward capitol and later go into congressional offices to lobby for their cause - an extension of the states' ratification deadline. In the office of San Diego Congressman Van Deeren, they confront an aide, Alan Ciampacero. "I'm on the spot," he complained, and remained non-committal in the face of threats of those who would work to oppose his boss in future elections. Some march observers thought such pressures might backfire on ERA goals.

## ERA'S LOUD DEMAND FOR MORE TIME

"B.K." COVERS THE WASHINGTON MARCH

THEIR MESSAGE WAS CLEAR: THE PROPONENTS OF THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT FOR WOMEN WILL NEED MORE TIME IF THEY ARE TO GET RATIFICATION; BUT THE MARCH MAY HAVE TURNED OFF SOME OFFICIALS

**N**OW THAT THE SHOUTING'S OVER and the banners are furled, the question of an Equal Rights Amendment ratification deadline extension rests with the House Judiciary Committee. And at week's end it appeared that the feminist proponents may - or may not - get the time extension they want; if they do, it may well be in spite of, not because of, their recent "march on Washington." The word from the capitol, when Reporter Bennett Kessler contacted congressional officials there a week after the march, seemed to be that a number of legislators were put off by the show of feminist enthusiasm that oftentimes went beyond demonstrating - to threats. And the increasing voices - increasing in both number and intensity - of ERA opponents were also heard on Capitol Hill; Anti-ERA groups were making much of the ERA's lesbian and radical factions which were noisily in evidence in the

Washington demonstration. Many sympathizers, even those in congress, told Reporter Kessler in Washington that even if the women marchers may be right in their demands, they were and remain right only "at the tops of their voices." And they offered another anti-ERA argument: The amendment backers were given a lawful seven years to get the states to ratify the amendment, and now they are asking for an extension which clearly goes beyond the law; in short, as more than one congressional member or aide put it, the ERA people failed to convince the necessary number of state legislatures and now they want to "hold another election."

More than 40 congressmen sit aboard the House Judiciary Committee to ponder the historically unique demand. For the ERA people it looks like a long road ahead, one meandering far beyond a mere march up the capitol steps.

(See ERA on Page 12)



## ERA Continued

Inyo's late Congressman Bill Ketchum had voted in favor of the original ERA proposal at Sacramento - when he was an assemblyman. But he had strongly opposed any extension of ERA's deadline. One of Ketchum's legislative assistants, Jim Moore, talked to the **NEWS-LETTER** reporter when she was in Washington, and then again a week after her return. Said Moore: "A number of compromises may be met behind closed doors before the committee introduces the fight on the floor." He referred to the fact that ERA is now in a position to be begging and demanding, having suffered unexpected difficulties in getting passage of the amendment. Now many congressmen, including some members of the judiciary committee, feel that a number of revisions in the proposal must now be allowed.

## BULLETIN

Word from Washington, early Tuesday, indicated that the ERA extension "may" be given, but for a shorter period than was asked.

In warning, he cited the case of the farmers' recent march on Washington, and its failure due in part to the fact they turned loose livestock to wander among many of the nation's historic shrines. A compromise is probable.

The women's march offered no clear-cut abuses, but a high degree of emotionalism and the deliberate embarrassment of a number of officials may have been less than the sugar needed to catch the flies of congress. What are chances of an ERA extension once the proposal gets out of committee - if in fact it does? Moore said "It's a long process. Once through the house, the issue must go to another committee in the senate...and all this when the legislature wants to get out by September or October."

## E.R.A. AND INYO COUNTY

*Unlike their more outspoken counterparts elsewhere, Inyo's feminists tend to maintain a low profile, but they are very much there, watching and listening. Upon her*

return to Inyo, Reporter Kessler was almost immediately contacted by an Independence women's group who asked her to "share" her Washington experience, but only on the condition that she withhold any news reports on the meeting. Reluctantly, Kessler agreed; and appeared for the talk only to find herself confronted and challenged on what the Independence women saw as her "soft" stand on the ERA movement: Kessler, asked for her "personal" view, suggested that although a "movement" may be in part necessary, it is more important that each woman center on "personal" development, work and accomplishment "without all the screaming and emotionalism." It was a view disappointingly unradical in the minds of the women present.

"Organized" feminism exists in Inyo County for a few members of the League of Women Voters. The League is "officially" on record in support of ERA.

After the (non-League) meeting at Independence, one protesting feminist angrily announced that she wouldn't "cook her husband's dinner for two weeks."

"And that," said Kessler later, "is the kind of emotionalism that may be a big part of the problem."

## AND STILL ANOTHER MARCH ON WASHINGTON

Even as the last echoes of the women's march faded along the Potomac, congressional leaders were faced with yet another demonstration - that of about 1500 American Indians who arrived in Washington this past weekend, concluding their "Longest Walk."

Somewhere in the crowd, a crowd reportedly far less shrill than that of the feminists, were some Inyo Countians: Equal Kennedy of Bishop and Delia and Nancy Medina of Independence. The 3000-mile San Francisco-to-Washington "walk" was organized in February to call attention to the Indians' protest against several pending congressional bills, bills that would alter old treaties, abolish the reservation system and do away with certain land and water rights.

A dance at Bishop celebrated the event.

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